

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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RESOLUTION

BY

MR. DOOLITTLE

RELATIVE TO

*The expediency of acquiring, by treaty, in Yucatan, Central or South America, the rights and privileges of settlement and of citizenship for the benefit of such persons of color of African descent as may voluntarily desire to emigrate.*

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Mr. DOOLITTLE submitted for consideration the following

RESOLUTION.

Whereas the numerous disabilities to which free persons of color of African descent are subjected in many of the free States have made it desirable, on the part of large numbers of them, to seek elsewhere a more favorable field for their labor and enterprise; and whereas the same class of persons is regarded with still greater disfavor in the slaveholding States, from considerations deemed so controlling that further emancipation in many of them has been prohibited by law, unless the persons emancipated shall be at the same time removed beyond the jurisdiction of the State, and in some of them the graver question is seriously entertained whether persons of African descent, who are now free, shall not again be reduced to slavery if they continue to remain within their jurisdictions; and whereas in Yucatan and Central and South America there are vast regions, almost uninhabited, of the most beautiful and productive countries in the world, in a climate well adapted to the constitution of the African race, to develop its greatest power and highest activity: Therefore—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Foreign Relations be instructed to inquire into the expediency of acquiring, by treaty, in Yucatan, Central or South America, the rights and privileges of settlement and of citizenship for the benefit of such persons of color of African de-

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scent as may voluntarily desire to emigrate from the United States, and form themselves into a colony or colonies, under the laws of the State or States to which they emigrate; the United States, in consideration of the commercial advantages of free trade with such colony or colonies, making and securing the necessary and proper engagements to maintain them in the enjoyment of the rights and privileges acquired by such treaty or treaties.